

Lee McClure

COMPOSER – ELECTRIC FLAUTIST
VIDEOGRAPHER

FOUNDER DIRECTOR
ECLECTIX CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
ECLECTIX DANCE COMPANY
NEW YORK CITY



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Developing the music of Gershwin, Ravel, Weill, Copland and contemporary Jazz, Lee McClure's compositions have unexpected turns of traditional harmony combined with a lyric integrity imbued with undercurrents of searching that qualify him as one of the most compelling and melodic composers in the last 50 years of classical music.

In October 2016 McClure published his Jazz Preludes for Piano. Without improvisation, the 17 miniatures of Book I & II are a lexicon of Jazz styles that bring new life to the legacy of George Gershwin.

In 1985 in New York City Lee founded the Eclectix Chamber Orchestra that has presented the music of more than 100 living composers. Eclectix has stirred controversy by championing new music that is not minimal or atonal. **The New York Times** has written: "Eclectix is a group dedicated to presenting melodic music in the tradition of Debussy, Gershwin, and Ellington. Most of this repertory grew out of a tonal, melody-accompaniment tradition, and a lot of it by way of American popular culture." Eclectix has premiered works by Earl Robinson, Toni & Gordon Parks, Fred Hersch and Ron Carter. It has presented works by Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson and performances by the Gregg Smith Singers and ensembles led by Dick Hyman, Bill Charlap, and Jane Ira Bloom.

Describing Lee's Symphony No.1 Montage, JoAnn Falletta, the conductor of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra wrote: "I found it to be a really beautiful work! I look forward to studying it." Lee's classical works include two operas, symphonic, modern-dance and choral compositions. The first of his two operas with librettos by the Pulitzer-Prize-nominated playwright Ron Whyte is Mother And Child which was premiered at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine (NYC). The Gregg Smith Singers premiered his Litany to the Holy Spirit for chorus and piano. One of Lee's substantial dance scores is Suite from The Voyage for two pianos. The Eclectix Chamber Orchestra's premiere of Hiatus was praised by **The New York Times** critic Tim Page who declared "it was probably the most distinguished piece on the program: the harmonies had bite and the musical ideas seemed both organic and Mr. McClure's own."

Lee's Jazz works include his arrangements of well-known Christmas songs created for his 2008 CD: A Jazz Christmas Like You've Never Heard. It was played on 40 radio stations in the United States and reviewed in **O's Place Jazz Magazine** by Oscar Groomes who wrote: "For sure Lee has managed to transform, twist and provoke our imaginations with this work. The album has a band exploding through classic spirited bebop arrangements with vocalist Margaret Dorn soaring on improvised vocals on top. The music is great and the lyrics are familiar."

In 2007 Lee founded the Eclectix Dance Company for which he creates all the music on his self-designed electric flute. He contributes major concepts and scenarios for the choreography and is the lighting and costume designer. Amplifying a silver flute through twelve processors and a sampler, Lee's electric flute creates grand-canyon echoes, a profound bass, three-octave glissandos, complex harmonies and other striking effects. He employs a sampler to create layers of ambient sounds, percussion or bass flute tracks which can be faded in and out via foot pedals during live performance.

Black Light is the 2011 CD of Lee's trio featuring his electric flute with Barry Wedgle on guitar and Eddie Hall on percussion. 2017 marks the 23rd year accordionist William Schimmel has presented in concert duets composed and performed by Schimmel and McClure.

As videographer Lee has created unique jazz and classical music videos combining recordings of his compositions with skillfully crafted photomontages of landscape and star-scape images that are sensitive to the nuances and form of the music. They can be seen on Lee's youtube channel: <https://goo.gl/d2Gv8l>

Lee has studied at the University of California Berkeley, the San Francisco Art Institute, and Berklee College of Music in Boston. His formal composition training began with a three-year scholarship of private tutorials studying Schoenberg's *Harmonielehre* at the Turtle Bay Music School in NYC. In 1979 he received his B.S in music composition from Brooklyn College (CUNY). A recipient of numerous ASCAP Special Awards, Lee's compositions have been performed by the Old First Orchestra of San Francisco and the Saturday Brass Quintet. He has received commissions from the Janet Gerson Dance Company, the King David Orchestra, and the Breve Trio.

Other major works of Lee McClure include ~ his second opera Voice ~ Elohim And Adam for soprano and orchestra ~ Cerulean Narrows for orchestra ~ Invocation for vocal octet ~ and Rock Adagio for electric flute. As an author Lee was invited to present his essay The Separation of Art and Society at the Society of Composers Inc's 1997 national conference in Miami. At Touro College Lee designed and taught a survey course on American music.

Using his matrilineal name, McClure is the son of the late Rev. Dr. Arnold B. Come, Presbyterian theologian, Kierkegaard scholar, author, professor, and president of the San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, California. At age 11 Lee began playing the flute in Basil, Switzerland, during his father's sabbatical.

Classical music – Opera & Vocal

“VOICE” — opera: baritone, soprano (with subtitles) (20 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZ6cSRehZ34>

Mother And Child — opera: soprano, mezzo, alto (with subtitles) (48 min)

https://youtu.be/gtiSiK_hZOA

Litany to the Holy Spirit — chorus and piano (with subtitles) (14 min)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fx6NmVr_Gtc

Elohim And Adam — soprano, narrator, & orchestra (7 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=StSz-D0l2IQ&feature=youtu.be>

Classical music – Orchestral & Instrumental

Symphony No.1 - Montage — symphonic orchestra, electric violin, and Jazz drums (8 min)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDH_6k6yxjY

Suite from The Voyage — two pianos (11 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QcWvVlPo9Y&feature=youtu.be>

Film Noir Memoir — solo piano (5 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=90ZRpngZ1So&feature=youtu.be>

Hiatus — orchestra / video of LIVE performance (10 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMa29HPGbDQ>

Cerulean Narrows — orchestra (10 min)

<http://eclectixnyc.org/Catalog.htm>

Electric Flute

Ondine's Oasis — electric flute & percussion (with subtitles) (5min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRUCWBUj35Y>

Through A Glass Darkly — electric flute (5 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eejwDqkk-rA>

The Leeward Islands — Eclectix Quintet: electric flute, voice, guitar, bass, percussion (20 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNgLmJtBXo>

Permanent Violet — Electric Flute and Guitar (4 min)

<https://archive.org/details/PermanentViolet>

Magenta Suspension — electric flute and guitar (5 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQZpHz6eWvk>

Seven excerpts — electric flute

<http://www.eclectixnyc.org/Eclectix.htm>

CD Albums

Jazz Preludes for Piano, Book I & II

2016 CD

Audio: <http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/leemcclure2>

Score: <http://www.ebay.com/usr/eclectixlee>

A Jazz Christmas Like You've Never Heard

2008 CD

<http://cdbaby.com/cd/leemcclure2>

Black Light

2011 CD – electric flute, guitar, percussion

<http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/leemccluretrio>

Modern Dance – Video

Danse Nebulae — for electric flute & 5 dancers (9min)

<https://youtu.be/woztKoakgT4>

Six excerpts — Eclectix Dance Company

<http://eclectixnyc.org/Video.htm> (plays better in Safari)

Website

<http://www.EclectixNYC.org>

Youtube Channel

<https://goo.gl/d2Gv8l>

<mailto:eclectix@earthlink.net>

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